[8th February 1924

Plague in Tuticorin.

331 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the sudden outbreak of plague in Tuticorin in an indigenous form;

(*b*) what preventive measures are taken to stamp out the disease and by which authority;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that there is a conflict of authorities in the matter of taking measures under the new Plague Regulations published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 10th July 1923, so far as Tuticorin is concerned, where there is a Civil Surgeon and also a Health Officer;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the plague regulations do not define the duties and functions devolving respectively on the Chairman of the Municipal Council, the Municipal Health Officer and the Revenue Divisional Officer; and

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the said officers are greatly handicapped in taking *immediate* measures on the outbreak of plague and that in consequence one officer is expecting the other to take the initiative on any particular measure?

A.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The reports received from the Collector of Tinnevelly and the Assistant Director of Public Health are placed on the table.*

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

(*d*) Under the Standing Orders the general control of all measures connected with plague is vested in the Collector of the district unless the Government in any case otherwise direct; and all officers of Government, of local boards and of municipalities and all plague officers must obey and carry out the Collector's orders.

(*e*) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"With reference to clause (*b*), will the Government be pleased to issue orders to the District Collector of Tinnevelly to pay, out of the funds under the discretion grants placed at his disposal, a certain amount of remuneration to the labouring classes, men, women and children in order to get themselves inoculated?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, it is left to the discretion of the Collector to distribute the fund."

Religious and Charitable Endowments.

The Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill.

332 *Q.*—Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) the number of meetings held in various places for the expression of protest against, and disapproval of, the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Bill;

(2) the number of memorials of protest received by the Government in regard to the measure; and

* Printed as Appendix III on pages 443-446 infra.